



Guide and Sport Troller Licenses Requirements and Restrictions

No person may engage or be employed for any compensation or reward to guide, direct, or assist any other person in hunting, fishing or trapping unless the person is issued a guide license by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) subject to s. 29.512, Wis. Stats.

➤ **Wisconsin Resident Guide License - \$40**

This license is required of a Wisconsin resident to guide, direct or assist any other person in: hunting, fishing or trapping for any compensation or reward.

- Applicants must complete The Guide License application, Form 9400-019
- Originals are issued through Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services, Madison
- Renewals are posted to your DNR customer ID account at the beginning of the calendar year
- DNR only issues guide licenses, we cannot guarantee quality or credibility of guide
- Resident Guide license includes the privilege to guide others in: hunting, fishing and trapping
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age

➤ **Nonresident Guide Licenses - \$100**

This license is required of a non-resident to guide, direct or assist any other person in fishing only for any compensation or reward.

- Applicants must complete The Guide License application, Form 9400-019
- Originals and renewals are issued through Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services, Madison
- DNR only issues guide licenses, we cannot guarantee quality or credibility of guide
- Nonresident Guide license allows for the privilege to guide others only for fishing
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age

All guide licenses run the calendar year from January 1 to December 31. License renewal notices will be distributed by e-mail to current license holders if they have a valid email in their DNR customer account prior to the first week of December for the upcoming license year. For additional information, please call Customer and Outreach Services at 1-888-936-7463.

➤ **Outlying Waters Sport Trolling Licenses - Resident - \$100 Nonresident - \$400**

This license is required to guide, direct or assist any other person in sport trolling for trout or salmon on outlying waters of the State of Wisconsin for any compensation or reward.

- “Outlying waters” are defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats. as Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Sawyer’s Harbor and the Fox River from its mouth up to the dam at De Pere.

- A U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license is required to carry passengers, for hire, on waters defined as navigable by the federal government. All of Wisconsin's outlying waters and several inland lakes and rivers are federally navigable.
- A valid U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license number must be provided on the sport trolling license application. For more information, contact U.S. Coast Guard in Ohio at 419-729-2034.
- Required to guide, direct or assist other persons in sport trolling, for trout or salmon in outlying waters of the state of Wisconsin for any compensation.
- A guide license is required to guide for fish species other than trout and salmon on outlying waters (bass or walleye for example). The U.S. Coast Guard license is still required to guide passengers from a vessel on these waters.
- A guide license is required for trout and salmon guiding on the Great Lakes by means other than "trolling" (i.e. if casting, drift fishing, jigging, tip-ups, etc) and to guide customers for trout or salmon on the tributary streams to the Great Lakes regardless of method used.
- Sport trolling licenses are issued exclusively by: Sturgeon Bay D.N.R. Service Center, 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay WI 54235. Phone number: 920-746-2866.
- Sport trolling licenses are valid for a calendar year; however, minimal salmon fishing occurs before April.
- Renewal reminders are mailed in January. Unless an earlier start date is requested, licenses are mailed in late March.

No person may be engaged for compensation to guide any person in sport trolling for trout or salmon in and upon the outlying waters unless the person is issued a sport trolling license by the DNR subject to s. 29.024 Wis. Stats. The application shall include the name of the homeport from which the applicant will operate, the applicant's valid U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license number and other information as required by the DNR for statistical purposes. The licensee and all persons on board the licensee's boat are required to comply with all of Wisconsin's hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. The licensee is legally responsible for the number of fish taken aboard the sport troller's boat. Boats used by the licensee shall meet minimum U.S. Coast Guard and this state's boat licensing and safety requirements. Each licensee shall keep records of the number of each variety of fish taken under their sport trolling license and other information required by the DNR. Forms are due on or before the 10th day of the month for the preceding month.

➤ **NOTICE:** Federal law may impose additional licensing or permitting requirements. It is the responsibility of the licensee to know and comply with all applicable federal regulations.

- 1) A U.S. Coast Guard Operator's license is required if you operate boats for hire or guide on federal waters. To obtain a listing of Wisconsin's federal waters, or for additional information on how to obtain this license, please contact your nearest U.S. Coast Guard station:
 Sturgeon Bay 920-743-3366
 Two Rivers 920-793-1305
 Sheboygan 920-452-0346
 U.S. Coast Guard office, Milwaukee 414-747-7170
 U.S. Coast Guard office, Toledo, Ohio 419-729-2034
- 2) A Special Use Permit is required if you engage in any commercial activity in the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, including guiding activities. For additional information on how to obtain this permit, please call 507-452-4232.

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This is an interpreted summary of certain Wisconsin laws applicable to guiding and sport trolling. For a full listing of applicable provisions, please see Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Code.